

IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN (IA)
28 October 1985

Protesters gear up for CIA visit

UI student group plans to disrupt on-campus recruiting interviews

By Jerry Heth
The Press-Citizen

Special security precautions will be in place when a CIA representative comes to the University of Iowa campus Wednesday and Thursday to conduct job interviews.

A UI group calling itself CIA Off Campus has promised to protest the agency's appearance on campus, just as students did last spring when they threatened to make a citizen's arrest on the recruiter.

But the threats of protest at UI and other college campuses have had no effect on recruiting, a CIA spokeswoman said.

"It doesn't make any difference to us," Patti Volz said in a telephone interview

from CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. "They have a right to protest."

But, Volz said, other students have the right to conduct interviews in undisturbed fashion with agency recruiters.

Volz said that CIA recruiting is no more low-key than it was before and that no job interviews have been cancelled because of protests.

"There was one case where a recruiter departed early, but re-scheduled an appointment for later," she said. "I don't consider that a cancellation."

Volz said she didn't know where the incident occurred. But last spring a CIA representative left the UI campus early in the wake of a student protest.

"There have been very sporadic protests," she said. "But I wouldn't consider

it a major problem. I just got off the phone from Michigan where there were minor protests. They (the protests) haven't affected recruiting any."

UI administrators recently rejected a demand of the UI group that CIA recruiters be banned from campus. The group said the agency was engaged in activities ranging from assassinations to overthrow of governments, but UI officials said the agency has as much right to conduct job interviews as any other business or organization.

"It's a moral issue," said Mike Price, a member of the group. "The university feels the CIA is just like IBM. That's simply not true."

Price said the group will try to disrupt the CIA job interviews that will be held in the Iowa Memorial Union Wednesday and Thursday.

Donald Moffett, director of placement services, said the interviewing schedule of the CIA representative is "filled up both days."

Moffett said special security precautions are being developed to keep any disruption to a minimum.

"I understand they (the students) are supposed to protest. That's their right," he said. "I hope they demonstrate peacefully."

Volz said the CIA hires a number of people during the year. She declined to say how many people are hired, explaining that information on the agency's budget and number of employees is classified.

Volz said the agency is looking for candidates in such fields as linguistics, political science, engineering, history and computer science. "It's a wide range of activities," she said.

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